



**MT. PISGAH NAMES NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS** — Congratulations is due to the 2018 Confirmation Class from Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church ELCAC in the Bethlehem Community. Shown above, left to right: front row – Sydney Farmer, Mykenzie Cozart, Ally Daughtrey, and Pastor Mike Stone; back row – Vicar Sam Mailleue, Kyler Peek, Bryson Abernathy, and Stephen Kunze.



**BETHLEHEM COBRAS WIN MATHESON** — The Bethlehem Cobras 7-8 Baseball Team claimed the title in the Annual Ernie Matheson Tournament recently with a perfect 4-0 record. Members of the title team are pictured from the left; first row: Adain Warren, Grant Hinkle, Cayden Bunch, Collin Brown, Kydd Norris, Joseph Evans, and Levi Spainhour. Second row: Lawson Lail, Parker Payne, Luke Morris, Afton Lesley, and Trey Evans.

## NW 3A/4A announces All-Conf. Tennis Team

The Northwestern 3A/4A Conference announced the 2018 All-Conference Team for men's tennis on May 14, and the ACHS Cougars were well represented on the squad.

After posting a 13-2 overall record and earning the school's first playoff berth in 14 seasons, three members of the Alexander Central Team earned All-NWC

honors.

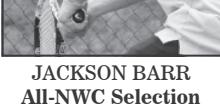
Seniors Jackson Barr and Chandler Davis were joined on the All-Conference Team by ACHS junior Carter Patterson. Patterson earned All-Conference honors for the third straight season.

ACHS finished the regular season in second place in the conference, with its lone setback coming

against league champion Watauga.

The Cougars' dual season came to a close with a 6-0 loss to Marvin Ridge in the first round of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs.

Hickory High School senior Josh Arditti was voted the NWC's Player of the Year, while Coach of the Year honors went to Alexander's Donny Pennell.



JACKSON BARR  
All-NWC Selection



CHANDLER DAVIS  
All-NWC Selection



CARTER PATTERSON  
All-NWC Selection



DONNY PENNELL  
NWC Coach of the Year

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## IN THE SHADOW OF HOGAN'S MOUNTAIN

By Dr. Warren Holler, whollar@charter.net

### The Case of the Missing Broccoli

In retirement, one of my favorite activities is to use the gardening skills learned in my Hogan's Mountain days and enjoying the fruits of my labor. I should add a disclaimer at this point. My wife does not enjoy the increase in garden-soiled clothing that seems to be part of gardening. My early garden crop includes broccoli, cabbage, onions, and other cool weather crops. Like most retired gardeners, the plants are nurtured with appropriate nutrients and loving care. A close watch is kept on the growth of the crop and anticipation grows for the gathering of the results of our efforts.

This year, I had a great crop of healthy broccoli that showed potential for a bountiful harvest of florets that would make great side dishes and wonderful homemade broccoli-cheese soup. As the plants grew, I decided to cut the first heads of broccoli when they were fist sized and planned to make a big pot of broccoli-cheese soup as a little compensation to my wife for her laundering of my garden clothes.

After a several-day rain,

**Alexander County DSS seeks volunteers to deliver meals**

The Alexander County Department of Social Services is needing reliable volunteers who are willing to deliver a lunch to homebound older adults. According to DSS staff, "this is a wonderful service that our county is able to offer and we are always in need of generous people who are willing to donate one hour a month of their time."

The routes are in Taylorsville, Bethlehem, Stony Point, and Wittenburg areas. Volunteers are also in need at the congregate nutrition sites. Call Katie Green at 632-4133, Susan Teague at 352-7660 or Wanda Pennell at 704-585-6446 for more information on becoming a volunteer. Background checks are required.

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harvest time arrived. Armed with my garden knife, a bucket and shod in my favorite boots, I was ready to head to the garden for an expected great yield and the anticipated surprise my wife would show for the result of my gardening skills. Two of my grandchildren were visiting, so I took them along in hopes that they might develop some interest in my hobby. The truth be known, they may have just wanted the ATV ride to garden.

With all the hype and anticipation for a great harvest, one can imagine my disappointment when we arrived and found that all fifteen of my beautiful plants had disappeared (Well, really cut off at the ground). Holding my tongue and resisting the urge to go into Elmer Fudd revenge mode, I thought we could at least make the loss of my crop a learning experience for my grandchildren.

We brainstormed several possibilities for the cause of my lost crop. First, the rabbits ate it. My grandson decided it would take a giant rabbit to eat all fifteen plants in one day or at least a big rabbit family. A second idea was that the large heron that regularly ate small fish in my pond needed a side dish to the fish. We agreed we had never heard of a broccoli-eating

heron. Our final ideas were that the culprit was either a deer or groundhog that enjoyed a full buffet of my broccoli. The rain had washed away any tracks, so we had no visual evidence. We decided I just needed to keep watch on the remaining cabbage, so this crop would not suffer the same fate as the broccoli. The answer to our speculation came early the next morning when I looked out my window to see a deer calmly swishing its tail and munching on my cabbage plants. Oh, I did make the soup for my wife but had to rely on the less than spectacular broccoli from a nearby grocery store. As we ate the meal, my wife asked if I planned to keep feeding the wildlife or should I just choose to put a few tomato plants in the shrubbery bed and take up golf.

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